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Henderson High

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NEW SCHOOL² OPENED² AT HENDERSON

"The word 'secular' is a bad one. —I wish we did not use it," said The Minister of Education, Mr Algie, when he officially opened the new high school at Henderson yesterday.

He said New Zealand education was supposed to be free, compulsory and secular. The simple assembly ceremony and the words of the principal, Mr A. D. W. Woolcott, showed there was a very real spiritual note in the school. The word "secular" implied there was none.

Mr Algie said education was made free so all could benefit from it. It was made compulsory so parents would send their children to school instead of exploiting them economically. "This evil is not quite eradicated," he commented. "I have seen children asleep at their desks because they had worked before school."

The school would become known throughout New Zealand as the "Henderson type," Mr Algie said. "We have to build 19 schools of this sort by 1955," he added.

Mr H. G. R. Mason, M.P., cited the remarkable speed with which the school had been pushed through.

"Given the people I could make a school under a hedge," the principal said. "A school is people, not a building." In thanking all those associated in the building of the school, he asked for their continued co-operation.

Other speakers were the chairman of the Auckland Education Board, Mr I. J. Day, the Mayor of Henderson, Mr W. G. Blacklock, and Mr D. V. Whitlock, chairman of the committee of management. The ceremony ended when Mr Algie unveiled a plaque commemorating the official opening of the school.

The new high school stands about a mile past the Henderson township, on the Henderson Valley Road and is about three-quarters completed. The contractor has his building programme a year ahead of schedule. It is under the control of the Auckland Education Board and its internal affairs are handled by a committee of representatives from each primary school in the area and local bodies. When the school is finally established, this committee will take full control.

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